

ONTARIO IMPROVES ACCESS FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED DOCTORS

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The Ontario government is introducing a plan that would ease the way for internationally trained doctors to practise in the province. This includes:

The Proposed Increasing Access to Qualified Health Professionals for Ontarians Act

This new Act would amend the *Regulated Health Professions Act* to place a duty on health regulatory Colleges to work in consultation with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to ensure, as a matter of public interest, that Ontarians have access to qualified, skilled and competent international health professionals.

Regulations under the *Medicine Act*

The government will work with The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) to amend regulations under the *Medicine Act*, as detailed in five recommendations put forth by Etobicoke-Lakeshore MPP Laurel Broten in her *Report on International Medical Doctors*:

1. Direct-to-practice: streamline the registration process for doctors already practicing elsewhere in Canada, the U.S. or other countries with a comparable health and medical education system.
2. Transitional or Restricted Licence: provide internationally trained doctors with transitional licensing that recognizes that many doctors can come here and begin practice with some limited supervision OR a restricted licence for doctors whose practice is limited to their highly specialized training, such as a neonatologist.

Other Actions

The government will also enhance existing programs and processes to:

3. Provide a more timely and efficient assessment process for internationally trained doctors and enhance training and orientation programs. This may require increasing the number of entry and advanced level training positions and practice-ready assessment positions, and investing in the medical education system and orientation programs to expand capacity.
4. Provide expanded access to individualized support for doctors trained in other systems for cultural and language education, mentorship and hands-on training
5. In cases where an International Medical Graduate is not likely to achieve success as a doctor, provide personal assistance to transition him or her to alternate roles in Ontario's health care system.